



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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July 23, 2015

Ms. Lorri Lee, Regional Director
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
United States Bureau of Reclamation
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

Subject: Extension of Withdrawal of Water of the Columbia River and Tributaries

Dear Ms. Lee:

Enclosed is the Order and Determination of the Department of Ecology (Ecology) granting extension of the withdrawal of waters of the Columbia River and tributaries until December 23, 2017. This withdrawal is in connection with the investigation of storage and transfers of water to enhance Yakima Basin water supplies and was initiated in 2004.

If the Bureau of Reclamation contemplates requesting a further extension of time to complete its investigations, I recommend the extension request be made before August 1, 2017, to allow sufficient time for the publication of notices and processing of the request.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding Ecology's decision or the withdrawal generally, please call me at (360) 407-6672.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loranger", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Loranger
Water Resources Program Manager

Enclosure

cc: Maia Bellon, Department of Ecology Director
Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands

Certified cc: Mary Burke, 9171999991703489873058
Toni Meacham, 9171999991703489873065

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST)	
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE)	ORDER AND DETERMINATION
INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES)	
FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE		
PERIOD OF WITHDRAWAL OF THE)	GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME
UNAPPROPRIATED WATERS OF)	
THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS)	
TRIBUTARIES UPSTREAM FROM)	
PRIEST RAPIDS DAM WITHIN THE)	
STATE OF WASHINGTON		

On October 27, 2014, the United States requested a three year extension of the period of withdrawal of all of the unappropriated water of the Columbia River and its tributaries, pursuant to Section 90.40.030 of the Revised Code of Washington.

The subject withdrawal was initiated by notice filed by J. William McDonald, the Regional Director of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on December 28, 2004, stating that the United States intended to make examinations and surveys for the utilization of such waters for multiple purposes, under Public Law 108-7, commonly referred to as the Yakima Basin Storage Study. On December 21, 2005, J. William McDonald (Reclamation) certified that a project appeared feasible and secured an additional three years to continue investigation of the project in detail, causing the waters to continue to be withdrawn from appropriation until December 22, 2008. The withdrawal was subsequently extended two additional occasions; until December 22, 2011 and again until December 23, 2014.

Section 90.40.030 of the Revised Code of Washington provides that a withdrawal may be further extended beyond the initial period after proper publication of notice has been made. Notice of the October 27, 2014 application for further extension has been published once a week for four consecutive weeks by Reclamation in weekly newspapers published and of general circulation in Yakima, Kittitas and Benton counties. All the legal notices were published in the November and December 2014 timeframe. Copies of said notices and affidavits of their publications are on file in the office of the Department of Ecology. Two comments to the continuation of this withdrawal were received and taken under consideration in granting this extension.

WHEREAS, the United States has made a timely application for a further extension to allow for continued examinations, surveys and investigations related to the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, notice of this application for further extension has been published once a week for four consecutive weeks in weekly newspapers published and of general circulation in Benton, Kittitas and Yakima Counties, the same being the counties where the works for the utilization of such waters could be constructed. Copies of said notices and affidavits of the publication are on file at Ecology's Central Regional Office; and


WHEREAS, Reclamation and the State of Washington continue to diligently investigate alternative projects to, expand the water supply of the Yakima River Basin through means that could include the importation of water from the Columbia River; and

WHEREAS, water rights for potential water supply enhancement elements to benefit the Yakima River Basin may be required as these elements are implemented in the future, it is therefore

ORDERED AND DETERMINED that the time within which the United States is required to complete plans for the utilization of the withdrawn waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries and file applications for permits for the appropriation thereof be and is hereby extended to December 23, 2017.

It is further provided that should applications for water right be filed on behalf of the United States for completion of this project under the provisions of Chapter 90.03 RCW within a period of time short of the time for which this extension is granted, this order shall be of no force and effect after the date of filing.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of this office at Olympia Washington on this date of July 23, 2015.



Tom Loranger
Program Manager
Water Resources Program